

JAMES W. ALEXANDER PTA, INC.
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
March 4, 2008

CALL TO ORDER:

President Betsy Reetz called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and led the flag salute. She welcomed teachers Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Ferraris.

ESTABLISHING QUORUM: (Executive Committee)

Excused from tonight's meeting and those present; see attached list.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Secretary's Report: The minutes were acknowledged and approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Betsy reported from the Statement of Account for February 6, 2008 through March 4, 2008. A beginning balance of \$10,222.48, receipts of \$7,197.60, disbursements of \$8,356.54, and an ending balance of \$9,063.54. The report was filed for audit. (See copy of attached report.)

Correspondence: Tammy Rodriguez reported that thank you notes were sent out for the people who helped support the bingo.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget and Finance- Marianne Joralemon started off by thanking everyone who participated in the Read-a-thon fundraiser. Cindy Devine was unable to attend tonight, but Kalyn gave details of the fundraiser.

Kalyn announced that the program was a great success. The kids were psyched up to read more than they've ever read before. They were rewarded with more books to read based on the amount of pledges they raised. All students could participate and were given a free ticket to Six Flags for reading a minimum of 300 minutes in 2 weeks. Reading logs were collected and tallied for individual and class awards. Students who chose to collect pledges were given vouchers for 50% of what they raised to spend at the book fair. The rest went to the library (20% in books) and to the PTA (30% in cash).

The book fair was an order-only book fair and was held for 2 days. Kalyn announced that they would like to extend the book fair to be the entire conference week but more volunteers are needed to make that happen. They were under-staffed on the two days we were open. The book fair will remain order-only as opposed to a cash and carry (like the Scholastic one in the fall) because every child can have the same choice of books whether they are the first or last to visit the book fair. This is especially important when students have vouchers to spend. And if 30+ kids want the same book (which they did - Silly Jokes Kid Kit) then it can be ordered and make everyone happy.

Kalyn reported that the response so far has been mostly positive. Children eager to read, siblings reading to each other, and parents happy that the television was off more than it was on during this program! The committee did however hear from parents saying we had too many fundraisers going on at the same time. They are considering having the read-a-thon take place in January next year and keep the book fair at conference time. If you have any suggestions on how this could work better, let them know.

Awards will be given out at the assembly on March 19th. Winners will be announced by the consultant at the assembly. Books will also be delivered this day. They will need volunteers to sort books and bag orders on the 19th in the AM. Please sign up if you are available to help. The following is a list of the awards from this program.

AWARDS

School Goal = 60,000 minutes

Total minutes read = 86,304 minutes

Total pledges raised \$5722.60

50% to kids in books = \$2861.30

20% to library in books = \$1144.52

30% to PTA in cash = \$1716.78

AWARDS:

READING CERTIFICATE = Given to all students who participated in the program.

SIX FLAGS TICKETS = Given to the students who completed the minimum 300 minutes during the 2 week period. (Will not be given out at assembly but when they arrive from Great Adventure.)

TOP READER MEDAL = Given to the student who read the most minutes in each grade.

TOP READER TROPHY = Given to the student who read the most minutes in the entire school.

TOP PLEDGE RAISER TROPHY = Given to the student that raised the most pledges in the entire school.

TOP TEACHER READER = \$25 gift certificate for free books, given to the teacher who read the most minutes.

CLASS PARTIES:

MOST MINUTES READ = Ice Cream Party for class with most combined minutes read.

MOST PARTICIPATING STUDENTS = Popsicle party for the class with most participating students.

MOST PLEDGES ROSE = Popsicle party for the class with the most pledges raised.

Marianne thanked Cindy and Kelly who ran the event. She stated that she had previously reported that we had \$5,000 left to raise. Thanks to the read-a-thon the balance yet to be raised is down to approximately \$3,300.

Marianne stated that our next fundraiser that is currently in progress is the Original Art Works Fundraiser. Karin Casole is organizing this fundraiser for us. The children did artwork in class and it is being made into magnets. A magnet with the child's artwork will be sent home Monday, and if a parent wishes to purchase the magnet the price is \$5.50. In addition to magnets the art work can be put on numerous items. The PTA receives approximately 30% of all proceeds from the art sale. Since this is a new fundraiser it is tough to predict what this fundraiser will raise for our PTA.

Box Tops were mailed in and we are anticipating a refund of \$131.00 in May. This brings the total to be raised down to approximately \$3,200. The following is what the committee has planned in order to help us achieve our fundraising goals:

- Super 50/50 with the winning tickets to be drawn at the May General Meeting
- A&M Fundraiser the weekend before Mother's Day (May 3, 4)
- Trenton Thunder 50/50 (May 2)
- A Wendy's fundraiser in connection with Field Day

Marianne took a poll as to whether or not a Spring Box Top Contest would be favorable. Last year we offered a "Sweet Chilly Treat" for the class that brought in the most Box Tops in May. The Sweet Chilly Treat provided was a Dixie cup of ice cream and several toppings so the kids could make their own Sundaes. She was not sure this type of treat would fit within our present guidelines so she asked for suggestions. We collected over 4,000 Box Tops which added \$402 to our fall rebate check. She is aware that we have lots going on which is why she wanted to poll the board to see if we thought it would be worthwhile to organize a Spring Box Top Contest and also if the answer is yes, Marianne is seeking suggestions as to what would be a viable prize.

The Executive Committee felt it was still a good idea and Mrs. Stevenson felt that the Dixie cup would be acceptable but without the extra toppings.

Health and Safety- Julie reported that April 24th is now a half day so we can't have the blood drive that day. The only day available is Saturday, April 19th. She is going to call and confirm that the blood drive will be on Saturday, April 19th from 9-2.

Julie also gave an update on mandating recess. Two more assemblymen and one senator have also agreed to cosponsor the bill. They are from different parts of the state which is great to get support from all over. More letters need to be written and it would be great if

everyone would do that. There also needs to be support on the federal level and it would be a good idea to write to those representatives as well.

Kindergarten Registration- Jamie reported that Kindergarten orientation will be held on Monday, April 14th from 9:30-10:30 am. Jamie stated that in the past we have always gone to BJ's for refreshments, but this year she is going to try to get the Three for Me volunteers to donate baked goods. She is hoping this will save money and time. She stated that they will be selling sweats and tees and they are set with volunteers.

Nominating Committee- Jamie reported that the Nominating Committee's first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 6th.

Recognitions- Mary Anne Wherley reported that Mr. Smith was given a gift card to Russo's Music Store in honor of Counselor for the month. She stated there are no recognitions for March but a lot for April.

Fifth Grade Activities- Jodi reported that on May 10th from 10-2 a car wash will be held at Patterson. Also the smencils are still for sale and the yearbook is right on target.

Jodi also reported that the teacher benefit will be held at Steinert on April 4th. Fred and Pete's will be donating the food for \$3 per person. Chris Barlow will be the DJ. Jodi asked that everyone bring a baked good for the dessert table. A sign up sheet was sent around for volunteers to help with set up/clean up. Tickets are \$10 for an adult and \$6 for children.

Founders Day- Jodi reported that Founders Day was a great success. She thanked Rachel, Tammy and Cindy for their help. She also thanked Karin and Sue for all their hard work in the kitchen.

Mary Anne Wherley said that as a teacher it was really nice to hear all the wonderful things that other teacher's said about the nominees. The books that were chosen were also a perfect fit.

Historical Yearbook- Debbie Hamm reported that the committee started meeting in January and is assembling the book.

Debbie also spoke about a possible fundraiser. Selling advance ride tickets for the Allentown Freedom Fest would give us a percentage of selling price. A discussion followed and Debbie will get more information for the next meeting.

Special Treats- Linda reported that Special Treats took place on Friday and was successful. Reports have been that the children all enjoyed the fruit and corn bread. The next Special Treats Day will be in June when we serve flying saucer ice cream. The committee has a surplus of money that can be put to good use if approved. We understand that Mrs. Stevenson may need us to provide something for Field Day or possibly a pizza day! Any suggestions are welcome.

Teacher Luncheon- Linda passed around a sign up sheet for the teacher appreciation lunch. It will be held the week of May 5th.

Website-Betsy reported for Bev Braddock that the magnets with the new website were of substandard quality so Bev sent them back and the PTA will not be charged. Bev indicated that the vendor utilized by Steinert for their magnets provided a magnet of much better quality, but that they were much more expensive. Since it was already so late in the year, Bev has suggested that we wait until this summer to order and next fall to distribute them. Since Bev was not present at the meeting, further discussion was tabled until next month.. Also, the bill for the website came and was \$54.

OLD BUSINESS:

Life Member Nominating Committee- Betsy stated that development of criteria for this award remains pending. She has not heard from anyone since the last meeting about an interest in participating on a committee to develop criteria, so this item will remain pending.

NEW BUSINESS:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Board Surveys- Betsy encouraged everyone to fill out the surveys and return them as soon as possible so planning for next year can begin. She stated that June will be here before we know it, and we have several committees which need to be in place by the end of the school year.

Board Resignations – Betsy asked that if you will be resigning from the board for whatever reason, please put it in writing and submit as soon as possible.

NJPTA Legislative Day – This is scheduled for March 12th. Registration deadline is tomorrow, so if you would like to attend, please see Betsy after the meeting or email her by 6am tomorrow.

Spring County Council Dinner Meeting – This is scheduled for April 10th. There is a sign up sheet being circulated if you wish to attend. The reservation is due prior to our next meeting. Dinner menu is the typical chicken/hosted by Wilson Elementary School/Susan Adams of Womanspace will be speaking. The council is asking for voluntary contributions of gift cards for WalMart, gas stations, etc. You can also go to their website at www.womanspace.org and check the list of donations there. If you are interested in donating a gift card, you can leave it in an envelope in the PTA mailbox with Betsy's name on it.

Betsy turned the floor over to Mrs. Stevenson for the Principal's report.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mrs. Stevenson started off with the testing schedule which is beginning this week. Testing is only done in the am and the teacher's are reporting that it is going well. There are only three absences so far.

Grade Three will be testing next week. The NJ Ask 3/4 will also be done in the morning. Students receive a snack and juice during testing. The fifth grade will be testing in May.

Mrs. Stevenson announced that Mrs. Katz was chosen as Teacher of the Year and will have the parking space beginning in September. Teachers are selected by their peers; she was so happy she cried.

She was pleased to announce that Early Act raised \$2310 during the Jump for the Heart. John Bannister received the most pledges.

The spring parties will be held on March 20th at 2:15pm. She also reminded everyone that April 24th is now a one session day. As soon as there is a principal's meeting a letter will go home to the students.

A question was raised about toppings for the sundaes at the spring parties. A discussion followed and Mrs. Stevenson asked that there be healthy choices for the ice cream toppings. Sue Bishop will e-mail room moms to remind them to offer healthy alternatives.

GOOD OF THE ORDER OF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Debra Conti

Recording Secretary

